

House Bill 861

By: Representative Jamieson of the 22<sup>nd</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To create the Banks County Family Connection Commission; to provide for the appointment  
2 of members; to provide for terms, oaths, duties, and powers; to authorize the commission to  
3 receive and expend funds and employ a coordinator; to provide for related matters; to provide  
4 an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 (a) There is created the Banks County Family Connection Commission. The commission  
8 shall be composed of 21 members, as follows:

9 (1) Eight ex officio members, as follows: the chairperson of the board of commissioners  
10 of Banks County; the superintendent of the Banks County school district; the director of  
11 Banks County Head Start; the chief health officer of Banks County Mental Health; the  
12 director of Department of Family and Children Services; the juvenile court judge of the  
13 Piedmont Judicial Circuit; the director of Banks County Adult Education; and the director  
14 of Banks County Public Health; and

15 (2) Thirteen community members which shall include at least one member of each of the  
16 following fields or professions: child welfare; medical; law enforcement; education; the  
17 business and civic communities; the faith community; and recipients of services, as  
18 follows:

19 (A) Two members shall be appointed by the chairperson of the board of commissioners  
20 of Banks County;

21 (B) Two members shall be appointed by the superintendent of the Banks County  
22 school district;

23 (C) One member shall be appointed by the director of Banks County Head Start;

24 (D) Two members shall be appointed by the chief health officer of Banks County  
25 Mental Health. One of these members shall be a recipient of services;

- 1 (E) Two members shall be appointed by the director of the Department of Family and  
2 Children Services;
- 3 (F) One member shall be appointed by the juvenile court judge of the Piedmont  
4 Judicial Circuit;
- 5 (G) One member shall be appointed by the director of Banks County Adult Education;  
6 and
- 7 (H) Two members shall be appointed by the director of the Banks County Public  
8 Health Department. One of these members shall be a recipient of services.
- 9 (b) Of the community members first appointed, six shall be appointed for an initial term of  
10 one year and the others shall be appointed for an initial term of two years. Successors to all  
11 such members and future successors shall be appointed for terms of two years and until their  
12 successors are appointed and qualified.
- 13 (c) Ex officio members shall serve on the commission for the terms of the positions they  
14 hold and shall be replaced on the commission by their successors in these positions.
- 15 (d) Members of the commission shall receive no compensation for serving on the  
16 commission but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred by them in  
17 carrying out their official duties.

18 **SECTION 2.**

19 The commission shall undertake annual and ongoing studies of the needs, issues, and state  
20 of the well-being of children, families, and youth in Banks County. The commission shall  
21 gather, publicize, and disseminate data on issues pertinent to families and children; identify  
22 outstanding issues and areas of concern and assist the community in establishing and  
23 implementing strategic and annual plans for addressing these issues collaboratively; design  
24 and propose comprehensive programmatic strategies for addressing conditions of families  
25 and children; secure and expend funds for implementing priority strategies; and identify,  
26 coordinate, and enhance the integration of existing resources to improve results for families  
27 and children. The commission shall adopt such rules or procedures as it finds necessary or  
28 desirable for the governance of its operation.

29 **SECTION 3.**

30 The commission is authorized to receive, accept, and expend funds from public or private  
31 sources for implementing strategies to benefit the children and families of Banks County.  
32 The commission is authorized to expend such funds to employ a coordinator for the  
33 execution of the commission's duties. The commission shall set the salary and  
34 administrative sponsorship for such coordinator.

**SECTION 4.**

Each member of the commission shall be given the following oath to be administered by the chief judge of the Superior Court of Banks County:

"Recognizing the fact that there are many social, economic, and educational issues that prevent our children and their families from achieving their potential and desiring to play a part in improving the outcomes for families and children, I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear that, as a member of the Banks County Family Connection Commission, I will fulfill the duties and responsibilities of my appointment to the best of my ability."

**SECTION 5.**

The entire commission shall meet at least quarterly. There shall be a five-member executive committee elected by the commission on an annual basis. The chairperson and vice chairperson shall head the executive committee. The executive committee shall act for the commission on routine matters and shall meet at least monthly and report its recommendations and actions to the entire commission.

**SECTION 6.**

This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2002.

**SECTION 7.**

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.